

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/775,541

Examiner

Lars A Olson

Applicant(s)

DELONG, MARK

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 July 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None . of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 10122004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-17 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The rope-fastening device as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a rope-fastening device that is comprised of first and second locking rings, each of said locking rings being further comprised of a base, a stationary arcuate arm that extends from said base and has both a locking end and a pivot end, a moveable arcuate arm with a locking end and a pivot end that is connected to the pivot end of said stationary arm at a pivot point, an opening in said locking end of said stationary arm that is capable of receiving the locking end of said moveable arm, and a plurality of gripping members that are provided along an inner surface of said moveable arm or said stationary arm, in combination with a flexible connector that links the base of said first locking ring with the base of said second locking ring.
3. The prior art as disclosed by Martin (US 5,245,730) shows the use of a rope connector that is comprised of first and second locking members each having a base, a stationary arcuate member with a locking end and a pivot end, a moveable arcuate arm with a locking end and a pivot end that is connected to the pivot end of said stationary member, and a plurality of gripping members along an inner surface of said moveable arm or said stationary member. Nicosia (US 2,607,094) discloses a rope connector with first and second locking members that are connected by a flexible connector for attaching two ends of a rope. Ulfers (US 1,713,106) and Cooper (US 904,843) disclose

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rope locking mechanisms that are comprised of two loops that are connected together in order to provide a means for creating and adjusting a loop in a rope member.

However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a rope-fastening device that is comprised of first and second locking rings, each of said locking rings being further comprised of a base, a stationary arcuate arm that extends from said base and has both a locking end and a pivot end, a moveable arcuate arm with a locking end and a pivot end that is connected to the pivot end of said stationary arm at a pivot point, an opening in said locking end of said stationary arm that is capable of receiving the locking end of said moveable arm, and a plurality of gripping members that are provided along an inner surface of said moveable arm or said stationary arm, in combination with a flexible connector that links the base of said first locking ring with the base of said second locking ring.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

lo

January 10, 2005

LARS A. OLSON  
PATENT EXAMINER

*Lars Olson*  
1/10/05